A FAITHFUL

ACCOUNT

OF THE

SICKNESS, DEATH, & BURIAL

OF

Capt. William Bedlow,

Who Dyed *August* the 20*th.* and was Buried *August* the 22*d.* 1680.

With many other Circumstances thereunto Relating.

Taken from the Testimony of his VVife, and many other of his Friends who constantly attended him in his Sickness.

In a Letter from an Intelligent Person in Bristol, *to his Friend in* London.

SIR, *Bristol Aug.* 23. 1680.

MY Obligations to your self, and desire of securing Truth from the Outrages of ill men, especially when the Publick is concern'd, have prevail'd with me to give you a short Account of the Sickness and Death of Captain *Bedlow*. On *Munday* the 9th. day of this Instant, he came very ill from *London*, having the Head-ach, and an extream Loosness most part of that day, the next day after he

he came home, he was seized with a most violent Vomiting and Looseness; Physicians were sent for, who attended him two or three days; but his Distemper encreasing, on *Thursday* two other Physicians were joyn'd in Consultation about him; his disease still grew upon him, and he being very apprehensive that it would issue in his Death, and understanding that the Lord Chief Justice *North* would be here to hold the Assizes the 16th instant, expressed a very great desire to speak with his Lordship for discharging of his Conscience, in deposing somewhat which he had not before disclosed; with which his Lordship being made acquainted, was pleased that night at his request to go to him; before whom he did by many repeated Asseverations, upon the words of a dying man, declare, That in all the great business of the Plot he spoke nothing against any person upon Oath, or otherwise by way of Accusation but what was true; and only complain'd that he had been two timerous, and rather lessened his Evidence in some particulars.

After some short time the company were desired to withdraw; and none being left with him but the Lord Chief Justice, Capt. *Bedlow's* Wife, and the Judges Clerk; My Lord gave the said Mr. *Bedlow* his Oath, and his Clerk took a pretty long Deposition in Writing, the contents whereof are yet secret; only thus far we know he made Oath, that whatsoever he had declared to the King & Council, and the Secret Committee, and at the several Tryals upon Oath, were all true, upon the word of a dying man. He told the Judg he expected no Crown of Martyrdom for Lying as the Papists did, but what he said was sincerely true, as he was shortly to appear before the Great *Jehovah*, the maker of all flesh, where he should stand with a clear Conscience as to all matters of the Plot, wherein he had given Evidence He said moreover to the Judg: My Lord! some will not believe the Plot, or pretend it at least. *!* My Lord I speak the more, because I know not but that I may dye this night: He very often said to my Lord Chief Justice with great earnestness, My Lord! I pity the King! I pity the King! His Life is in danger! they will poyson or Cut Him off! they are going towards it! they

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are Carrying on the Plot! the Papiſts will kill Him! When my Lord was going away, he called him back again, took him by the hand, and beg'd him to preſent his moſt humble Duty to the King, and to tell him he was His moſt Loyal and Dutiful Subject, and to beſeech him to take care of Himſelf.

Tueſday the 17*th* of *Auguſt* towards the Evening. he appeared worſe then he had been all his ſickneſs before; ſome about him asked him ſeveral Queſtions about his Depoſition; he replyed, He was a very weak man, and would talk no more of Temporal things.

Wedneſday night he had a ſevere Fit, through the violence of which, he ſpake not for the ſpace of 14 hours, or there about. *Thurſday* in the evening his ſpeech returned to him, and he took ſome refreſhment, and asked thoſe about him what day of the Month it was? and what hour of the Day, exactly? One ſtanding by, asked him if he were ſatisfied in his Conſcience as to what he had ſworn and acted in the publick buſineſs he had been involed in? His Anſwer was, That as he hoped for Salvation, all that he had Sworn about the Plot was juſt and true, and that he had rather omitted, than augmented any thing he had given in Evidence. This he ſpoke the night before he dyed, and after he had been in a Trance ſeveral hours.

Friday the 20*th* of *Auguſt* Inſtant, his Speech failed him again, and returned no more; and about Two of the Clock that afternoon he expired.

Yeſterday being *Sunday*, after he had been publickly expoſed in *Merchant-Taylors* Hall, in this City, to the view of all ſpectators; his Corps was carried thence about Six of the Clock in the Evening, and buried in the *Mayors Chappel*, called the *Gaunts*: the Funeral was attended with a very numerous Company of Citizens, both Men and Women. Mr. Mayor, and others of the beſt Quality being preſent, ſeveral Gentlemen of the Council, and others bearing up the Pall. The Church was hung with black. Mr. *Palmer*, a Reverend and Learned Divine of this City, Preached an excellent Sermon at his Funeral, on *Rom.* 14 *v.* 12, 13. *So then every one of us ſhall give an account of himſelf to God, Let us not therefore judg one another any more, but judg this rather, that no man*

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put a ſtombling block, or an occaſion to fall in his brothers way. The were Eſcutcheons fixed to the Hearſe, with this Inſcription black Letters in a Field-Argent:

Teſtimonium quod vivens Exhibuit
Moriens conſtanter Obſirmavit!

Thus you have a plain and juſt Relation of the Death and Buria of Captain William Bedlow. *The loſs of ſo conſiderable an Evi dence to the King and Kingdom is greatly to be deplored: But if you revolve ſeriouſly upon the manner of his Death: and his exact tem per and deportment through the whole ſeries of his ſickneſs, you'l find reaſon to believe, that* Sampſon *like he hath Triumph'd even in Death, over the Popiſh Conſpirators, and been as formidable in his ſick bed, as formerly in the Courts of Juſtice; the ſtrong Aſſeverations he left behind him in vindication of his Evidence, hath rais'd it to the higheſt* Reputation. *It ſeemeth to me, as if Providence found it neceſſary in this ſtubborn and unbelieving age, to uſe extraordinary methods to evince the World of the truth of the* Bloody and Helliſh *Plot. And therefore to the clear and uncontroulable Evidene tha hath been given* viva voce, *and by Original Letters under the Con ſpirators own hands, God hath now ſuperadded one Argument mor to convince us, by making one of the Witneſſes ſeal the diſcover with his laſt breath, and dye, giving repeated Evidence againſt th Plot. I am,*

SIR,

Your humble Servant,

T. S.

Reprinted.